

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 28, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 13, 14, 22, 23, 37, 38, 46, and 47 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention and claims 13, 16-20, and 40-44 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 48-55 are submitted for consideration, which, although of different scope, include in part similar claim features as those recited in allowed independent claims 14-47. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in independent claims 14 and related dependent claims 2-12 and 21, independent claims 22, 23, and 37, independent claim 38 and related dependent claims 25-36, 38, and 45, and independent claims 46, and 47. Although on the first paragraph of page 3 of the Office Action, it is submitted that claims 22, 23, 37, 46, and 47 are rejected, the prior art rejection addresses claim 13 only. Also, page 4 of the Office Action submits reasons for allowing claims 22, 23, 37, 46, and 47. Applicants' representative contacted the examiner confirming that claim 13 is the only claim being rejected in the Office Action.

Claims 2-12, 14, 21-23, 25-38, and 45-55 are under consideration.

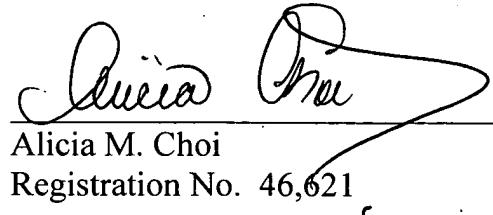
Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1191763 to McCann et al. (“McCann”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,956 to Shirai (“Shirai”). The Office Action took the position that McCann and Shirai describe all the recitations of independent claim 13. Because claim 13 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, it is respectfully asserted that the rejection to this claim is rendered moot. Thus, is it respectfully requested that the application be issued into allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
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